

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes - Final

June 21, 2007

In Attendance: Sheri Baron, Marlissa Briggett, Christine Carney, Victoria Cohen, Joseph Curro, Mahendra Desai, Christine Deshler, A. Nick Minton, Marlene Schultz, Nancy Sweeney, Bill Shea

Absent: Jorge Loayza, Nancy Rhoads

Review of May Minutes

Minutes accepted with two abstentions.

Incidents and Complaints -

1. **Police report of 5/24** – discussion regarding tagging at the Ottoson – Joe Curro left a message with the assistant principal and never heard back.
2. **Letter from Nicole Viele regarding Somerville H/S incident** – discussion of letter listing sportsmanship code of conduct to be sent to all schools opposing Somerville. Decision to send copy to Supt. Levenson and members of the School Committee.
3. **Brackett School newsletter policy investigation** – Marlene Schultz, Joseph Curro met with the principal. Marlissa Briggett and Joe Curro met with the superintendent – decision made that there is jurisdiction for us to proceed with this complaint – Awaiting response from each.
4. **Gardner Street Incident** – Joseph Curro will look into this incident

Diversity Training

Three interviews have been done - question of whether there is enough info - what is our next step - we've got to get this program going – majority of commissioners were in favor of EMI presentation - motion was made and passed – Joe Curro was asked to move ahead in contacting EMI.

Town Day - is September 8th – application will be filed with request for booth to be located near Library – commissioner time sign-ups have been requested and many suggestions for our booth were discussed – follow up at next meeting

Networks and Coalitions –

1. **No Place For Hate** – the selectmen publicly proclaimed their support of NPFH at the June 18th meeting – suggestion was made that we request our Town Day booth be near NPFH as we are working together on projects – Marlene and Joe are on the Steering Committee and Cindy Friedman is the Steering Committee Chair – all recognize the need to reach out to be more diverse - Marlene Schultz, Joseph Curro and Lt. Hughes attended the NPFH annual conference, which had immigration as its theme; we heard presentations from Somerville, Salem, and others.

2. **MAHRC** – Nancy Sweeney and Joseph Curro attended a recent meeting at Medford City Hall (2nd Friday of each month at 9:30 AM) - they related to the many services and a few problems that were discussed at the meeting and encourage more HRC to attend when possible.

Subcommittee Reports -

Dialogue – nothing pending – the subcommittee will meet Wednesday, July 18th prior to our next regular meeting.

Policies and Procedures – no report

Schools – no report

Rapid Response/Publicity – e-mail listing is still a work in progress – the commissioners would like to invite the new Advocate editor to one of our meetings.

New Business –

Symmes Project - Joseph Curro spoke of the agreement and its new language – more to follow on this.

Budget – suggestion was made to set aside some time at next meeting to discuss 2007/08 budget.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded, voted on and passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Marylynn Carnell